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JUL 1939

89-244344/34 E31 L02 CENG 28.12.87
28.12.87-JP-336179 (12.07.89) C01g-33 C01g-35
Reforming niobium oxide or tantalum oxide comprises crystallising the hydroxide(s) from a soln. of the fluoride by adding aq. ammonia, washing etc. and adding acid C89-108794

Niobium hydroxide or tantalum hydroxide contg. fluorine (under 8 wt.%) is obtd. crystallisation in a neutral or basic conditions. The hydroxide is treated by acid (PH is under 6, weight is over 2 wt.% of oxide weight).

USE/ADVANTAGE - The nlobium hydroxide or tantalum hydroxide has a BET specific surface area of over 70 m2/g. The caking of powder at sintering is prevented.

In an example, niobium hydroxide was crystallised by adding 25 wt.% of ammonia water to niobium fluoride soln, at PH 9. Thus 400 kg of niobium hydroxide slurry was obtd. Then 400 g of niobium hydroxide surry was filtrated and washed with 11 of water. 8 wt.% of 100 hydrogen chloride was then added to the cake and washed with 500 ml of water. It was then dried at 150c for 20 hrs.. The obtd. powder had good dispersibility. Niobium oxide powder obtd. by sintering at 800 deg.C. had good dispersibility. (5pp Dwg.No.0/2)

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⑩ 日本国特許庁(JP)

⑩特許出願公開

### 四公開特許公報(A)

平1-176226

@Int\_Cl\_4

識別記号

庁内望理番号

❸公開 平成1年(1989)7月12日

C 01 G 33/00 35/00 A-7202-4G D-7202-4G

審査請求 未請求 発明の数 1 (全5頁)

**公**発明の名称 酸化ニオブまたは酸化タンタルの改質方法

②特 願 昭62-336179

❷出 願 昭62(1987)12月28日

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明 如 {

1. 発明の名称

段化ニオブまたは酸化タンタルの改質方法

2. 特許的求の処理

中性もしくは、塩基性の条件下で晶出させた水酸化ニオブまたは水酸化タンタルで、ファ森含有性が8位近%(協配酸化物換算)以下である水酸化物を酸化物換算重量に対し2位量%以上の酸銀で、かつpH6以下の条件下で処理するようにしたことを特徴とする酸化ニオブまたは酸化タンタルの改質方法。

3. 発明の辞却な説明

本発明は、設化ニオブまたは酸化タンタルの 粉体特性の改質に関するものである。

(従来の技術)

酸化ニオブまたは酸化タンタルは、金瓜ニオブまたは金瓜タンタル、炭化ニオブ、炭化タンタルなどの原料や、充学レンズ用添加剤、電子材料用原料などに使用され、原料として高鉛度

これらの国題点を改むする方法として、特公 昭49-30354号公和では、ニオブまたはタンタル のファ化物超塩溶液に炭酸アンモニウムまたは 蛍炭酸アンモニウムを添加し、ついで加熱して 母られる沈環物を容法に従って焼成処理するこ とを 敬とする、認過性のよい粗粒状水酸化ニ オブまたは水酸化タンタルの製造方法が関示されている。

一方、特朗昭51-10197号公報では、ファ化ニ

### 特開平1-176226(2)

オブまたはファ化タンタル水溶液をアンモニアと反応させて水酸化物を得る際、pH9以上の条件で処理することにより、前記水酸化物中のファ素を除去することを特徴とする百純度水酸化ニオブまたは水酸化タンタルの製造方法が開示されている。

また、本発明者らは先に、フッ素を含むニオブまたはタンタル水酸化物の不純物除去に、鉱酸とホウ素を用い処理する精製方法(特別昭 62-138385 号)を提案したが、これら水酸化物はいずれも乾燥時に固結凝集を起こし、更に酸化物への機成工程においてはこの現象が顕著に現れが砕工程を必要とする。

(発明が解決しようとする問題点)

このように、水酸化ニオブ又は水酸化タンタルは乾燥および焼成において固結をおこしやすく、そのため粉体特性を著しく悪化させる。一方フッ素含有量の高い水酸化ニオブまたは水酸化タンタルから酸化物を得ると固結凝集は幾分緩和されるものの粒子の異常成長や、異常結晶

の生成をみるのみならず、発生するファ素含有 ガスによる設備機器の損耗、作業環境の悪化、 更には機器腐蝕による異物の混入等で純度低下 を招く。

(問題点を解決するための手段)

本発明において、改費に使用する水酸化ニオブ、水酸化タンタルは周知の方法で合成された ものにも適用できるが、なかんずくニオブまた はタンタルのファ化物水溶液またはシュウ酸塩

水溶液を添加しpH8以上の塩基性領域で晶出される、水酸化ニオブまたは水酸化タンタルに適用する場合特に有効である。

なお、酸処理に際しては水酸化ニオブまたは 水酸化タンタル中のファ素含有量は、ニオブま たはタンタルの酸化物換算で8盤量%以下であ ることが望ましく、それ以上のファ素含有量で あると、酸処理による水酸化物の溶解損失を招 き経済的でない。

 し水洗したのち、付着水分を例えば 110~160 での温度で乾燥すれば、固結凝集のおこらない乾燥物、更にはこれを 600~900 ででの焼成による酸化物の製造においても、これら固結凝集は殆ど認められない粉体特性の改質された酸化物を得ることができる。

なお、洗浄あるいはリパルプに使用する酸の 量が2重量%以下では、残存アルカリのため pH が6以下の酸性域に下がらず改賞の効果がでない。

本発明における酸処理が、いかなる機構に基づき固結凝集を防止するかは明らかではないが、液のpH、水素イオン濃度によっておきる現象であろうOH とP あるいは H2 O とNH4 F の置後、更には乾燥品のBET比表面積の増加からして、細孔状態の変化に基づくものと考察される。

このように本発明は、極めて簡単かつ簡便な 操作で所期目的を達成することができるが、以 下本発明によって製造された水酸化ニオブまた は水酸化タンタルおよび酸化物の改良された

### 特閒平1-176226(3)

体特性は、水酸化ニオブまたは水酸化タンタル のファ素含有量や粉体特性は軽適方法によって 大きく異なり、また焼成酸化物の粉体特性も焼 成品度、量、方法等によって異なる。

すなわち、フッ素含有量 0.2度量分 (酸化物 換算)以下に減少した水酸化ニオブを、常法に 従って乾燥させた 150℃乾燥物を解砕し 100メ ッシュ師を通過させた物の粉体特性としてBB T比炎面積、JiS K5101 のカサ比値を参考とし て示すと、BET比表面積15~20㎡/g、カサ 比重 0.3~0.6g/ccであり粉体は固結凝集した 粗粒が多量に存在する。一方本発明方法で前記 水酸化物と同一の物を例えば、塩酸を酸化物換 算に対して 2 ~ 100 重量%使用して製造した 150 で乾燥物は、指圧で解砕され線を通過させた物 のBET比表面積70~120 ml/g 、カサ比重 0.2 ~ 0.4g/ccで粉体は固結凝集が全く見られ ない。このように本発明方法ではBBT比表面 積70㎡/ g 以上を有し、粉体特性のすぐれた水 酸化ニオブまたは水酸化タンタルの乾燥物が得

られる。また、前記の水酸化ニオブの乾燥物を、同一条件で胃者を常法に従って 800でで焼成した酸化物を解砕し30メッシュ降を通過させた粉体特性としてカサ比重、平均粒径(自然沈降減定法 D<sub>50</sub>)を参考として示すと、前者はカサ比重 0.5~0.8g/cc、平均粒径 3~15μmで粉体は固結凝集した粗粒が多量に存在する。一方本発明方法で製造すれば焼成酸化物は解砕することなく即を通過し、カサ比重 0.2~0.5g/cc、平均粒径 0.5~3μmで粉体は固結、粗粒のない粉体特性のすぐれた酸化物が得られる。

また、ファ素含有量(酸化物換算)1~8 重量%と比較的高い水酸化物を本発明方法で処理しても同様の効果が得られるのみならず、得られた乾燥水酸化物を焼成した酸化物は、処理を行なわない酸化物よりも粒子成長が著しく少ない酸化物が得られる。

以下、本発明を実施例により具体的に説明する。

なお、乾燥物は解砕し、 100メッシュ降を通

適させた物を、焼成酸化物の解砕物の粉体特性を測定した。カサ比重はJIS K5101 の方法、平均粒径(自然沈降法)は馬津粒度分布測定装置 SA-CP2形を用い測定した。

### 実施例 1

テフロン製 500 & 反応容器にイオン交換水と25度量 % アンモニア水を加えたのち、ファ化ニオブ溶液 (酸化物換算 10重量%) を添加、中性以上の pH 9 で水酸化ニオブを品出しスラリー濃度 8 重量% (酸化物換算)の水酸化ニオブスラリー 400kg を製造した。以下この水酸化ニオブスラリーを用いた。

上記水酸化ニオブスラリー 400g (酸化物換算 32g) をヌッチェで返過したのち、1 ℓのイオン交換水で洗浄した。この返過物のフッ素含有量は0.25重量%(酸化物換算)であった。この物を引続き酸化物換算重量に対し25重量%の均衡量となるよう8重量%に希釈した塩酸 100gで洗浄し、引続き 500m ℓのイオン交換水で洗浄した。ついでこの物を温度 150でで20時間

乾燥し粉体特性を測定したが、良好で固結凝集 物は全く認められなかった。また、この乾燥物 を 800℃で換成し五酸化ニオブとなしその粉体 特性を測定したが、良好で固結凝集物は同様に 認められなかった。その結果を第1表に示す。 また、そのSEM写真を第1因に示す。

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に示す。

#### **实施例3、4、5**

他の紅酸として明酸、硫酸、または有級酸として研酸を酸化物換算重量に対し25重量%となるよう8重型%に希釈した放を用い、実施例1と同様に行ない、水酸化ニオブを得た。この協の乾燥物及び焼成酸化物は実施例1と同様に粉体特性は良好で固結した熱処物は全く認められなかった。その結果を第1表に示す。

#### 実施例 6

実施例1で製造したスラリー 100kg (酸化物 換算8kg) を小型のフィルタープレス概で超過 し、イオン交換水 120kで洗浄した。この物の フッポ含有量は 4.8重量% (酸化物換算) であった。引続き酸化物換算重量に対し20重量%の 塩酸となるよう8重量%に希釈した塩酸20kgで 洗浄したのちイオン交換水 120kで洗浄した。 この物の遊場物及び焼成酸化物は実施例1と同 様に粉体特性は良好で固結群集物は全く認められなかった。その結果を第1表に示す。

### 実施例7、8、9、10

5 & テフロン容器にイオン交換水と250 配外アンモニア水を加えたのち、フッ化タンタル溶液 (酸化物換算10 遊野%) を添加、中性以上のpHで水酸化タンタルを晶出し、スラリー 級度 8 超景 % (酸化物換算) の水酸化タンタルスラリー 4 kg を製造した。以下この水酸化タンタルスラリーを用いた。

上記水酸化タンタルスラリー400g(酸化物设算32g)をヌッチェで越過したのち、1 2 のイオン交換水で洗浄した。この超過物のフッカ合行量は、0.3重量%(酸化物換算)であった。この物を引続き酸化物換算に対し25重量%の鉱酸となるよう塩酸、硝酸、塩を洗浄したのち、引吸き 500m 2 のイオン交換 水で洗浄した。この物を 150でで 20時間 結婚 機 した。この物を 150でで 20時間 結婚 機 した。この物を 150でで 20時間 結婚 機 物性全人認められなかった。また、この乾燥物を 800 でで 協成し、五酸化タンタルとなしその粉

### 比效例 1

実施例1で顕遊したスラリー 400g (酸化物 投資32g) をヌッチェで超過したのち、 1.5g のイオン交換水で洗剤した。この物を 150℃で 20時間を綴し粉体や性を測定した。得られた乾 場份は間暗凸均した粗粒が多量に存在していた。 また、この乾燥物を 800℃で焼成し粉体や性を 測定したが、固結凝棄した粗粒が多量に存在していた。 でいた。その結果を第1 裏に示す。また、その SEM写真を第2 図に示す。

### 比效例2

実施例 1 で製造したスラリー 100㎏(酸化物 換算 8 ㎏)を小型のフィルタープレス概で報過 し、イオン交換水 240ℓで洗浄した。この物を 150 でで 20時間乾燥し粉体特性を測定した。 得 られた乾燥物は固結避殺した粗粒が見られた。 また、この乾燥物を 800℃で焼成し粉体特性を 設定したが間柗に固結避殺した粗粒が見られ、 実給例 6 に比較し粒子は成長していた。その結 県を第 1 表に示す。

体特性を認定したが、良好で固結磁質的は全く 認められなかった。その結果を第2数に示す。 比の例3

上紀水酸化タンタルスラリー400g(酸化物換算32g)をヌッチェで超過したのち、 1.5 gのイオン交換水で洗浄した。この物を 150でで20時間拡凝し、粉体特性を認定した。得られた乾燥物は固糖凝集した粗粒が多量に存在していた。また、この乾燥物を 800でで焼成し、粉体特性を設定したが、固糖凝集した粗粒が多量に存在していた。その結果を第2表に示す。

(以下余白)

### 特別平1-176226(5)

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,	乾燥	水酸化ニオ	ナ	鏡改五酸化ニオブ			
	BET (d/g)	カサ比重 (8/00)	西域政策 有 、無	平均位 (D <sub>sp</sub> μm)	カサ比重 (8/00)	西路延集 有 . 数	
<b>支施</b> 例1	102 •	0.24	無	0.59	0.27	無	
支施例2	<i>1</i> 5	0.33	•	0.95	0.35	•	
実施例3	87	0.25	•	0.69	0.29	•	
实施例 4	75	0.27	•	1.00	0.35	•	
克施州5	80	0.30	•	0.90	0.32	•	
英连例6	82	0.29	•	1.01	0.29	•	
LEEDIN 1	17	0.37	有	6. i	0.51	有	
出稅的2	25	0.40	•	3.2	0.42	•	

### 第 2 表

	乾燥水酸化タンタル			換成五酸化タンタル			
	BET (m/g)	カサ比似 (g/cc)	战陆凝集 有 .無	平光 <u>排列等</u> (D <sub>50</sub> μ m)	カサはff (g/cc)	店院/現場 有 .無	
英施例?	95	0.38	無	0.81	0.03	無	
実施例8	85	0.40	-	0.92	0.71		
実施例9	77	0.45	•	1.09	0.75	•	
<b>英雄</b> 例10	80	0.41	•	1.01	0.71	•	
比較到3	20	0.61	4	7.5	1.28	有	

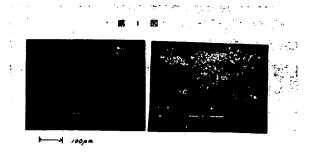
### (発明の効果)

本発明によって製造された水酸化ニオブまたは水酸化タンタルは特別な処理や乾燥方法を利用しなくても常法に従って乾燥するだけでBET比表面積70㎡/8以上を育し、粉体特性の改良された良好な乾燥物が得られる。また、この乾燥物を常法に従って焼成すれば、粉砕工程を必要としない粉体特性の改良された良好な酸化物が得られる。

### 4. 図函の簡単な説明

第1図および第2図は本発明における実施例 1および比較例1の夫々乾燥水酸化ニオブおよび焼成五酸化ニオブ粉体の粒子構造を示すSB M写真である。

特許出願人 セントラル領子株式会社 代 理 人 弁理士 坂 本 栄 一



A Para Caraca Ca

Japanese Kokai Patent Application No. Hei 1[1989]-176226

Translated from Japanese by the Ralph McElroy Co., Custom Division P.O. Box 4828, Austin, Texas 78765 USA

Code: 397-54460

# JAPANESE PATENT OFFICE PATENT JOURNAL

## KOKAI PATENT APPLICATION NO. HEI 1[1989]-176226

Int. Cl.4:

C 01 G 33/00

35/00

Sequence Nos. for Office Use:

A-7202-4G

D-7202-4G

Application No.:

Sho 62[1987]-336179

Application Date:

December 28, 1987

Publication Date:

July 12, 1989

No. of Inventions:

1 (Total of 5 pages)

Examination Request:

Not requested

e Party (m. 69

PROCESS FOR REFORMING NIOBIUM OXIDE OR TANTALUM OXIDE

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[There are no amendments to this patent.]

### Claim

A process for reforming niobium oxide or tantalum oxide is characterized in that niobium hydroxide or tantalum hydroxide, obtained by crystallization under neutral or basic conditions and containing 8 wt% or less fluorine (based on oxide of niobium or tantalum), is treated by 2 wt% or more, based on the oxide, of an acid at pH of 6 or less.

## Detailed explanation of the invention

The present invention is related to reforming the powder properties of niobium oxide or tantalum oxide.

### Prior art

Niobium oxide or tantalum oxide has been used as a raw material for niobium and niobium carbide or tantalum and tantalum carbide, additives for optical lenses, and a source material for electronic materials, and the demand for high-purity niobium hydroxide and tantalum oxide as raw materials has risen. In general, niobium oxide or tantalum oxide is prepared by decomposing raw ores with hydrofluoric acid according to a known method, adding an alkali such as ammonia to the resulting solution of niobium or tantalum fluoride complex salt to precipitate the metal hydroxide, drying the metal hydroxide and firing. In the above method, however, the fluorine component remains behind, and also the niobium or tantalum hydroxide obtained is extremely fine so that there arise such problems that the processes of filtration, drying, etc., are complicated and expensive facilities are needed.

As the method for improving the above problems, in Japanese Kokoku Patent No. Sho 49[1974]-30354 a process is disclosed for preparing coarse granular niobium hydroxide or tantalum hydroxide having good filterability, which is characterized in that ammonium carbonate or ammonium bicarbonate is added to a solution of a niobium or tantalum fluoride complex salt and heated, and the resulting precipitate is fired according to an ordinary method.

On the other hand, in Japanese Kokai Patent Application No. Sho 51[1976]-10197 a process is disclosed for preparing high-purity niobium hydroxide or tantalum hydroxide, which is characterized in that when an aqueous solution of niobium fluoride or tantalum fluoride is reacted with ammonia to obtain a

hydroxide, it is treated at a pH of 9 or more to remove fluorine in the above hydroxide.

Furthermore, the present inventor et al. previously proposed a refining process for removing impurities of fluorine-containing niobium or tantalum hydroxide using a mineral acid and boron (Japanese Kokai Patent Application No. Sho 62[1987]-138385), but both hydroxides solidify and coagulate during drying; this phenomenon is notable in the firing process for obtaining oxides, and thus a grinding process is required.

## Problems to be solved by the invention

Like this, niobium hydroxide or tantalum hydroxide easily cakes in drying and firing, and thus the powder properties are notably deteriorated. On the other hand, when an oxide is prepared from niobium hydroxide or tantalum hydroxide with high fluorine content, the caking is slightly mitigated, but there occurs not only abnormal growth of particles or formation of abnormal crystals, but also lowering of the purity by the wearing out of equipment by the fluorine-containing gases generated, deterioration of the work environment, further admixing of foreign materials by equipment corrosion, etc.

## Means to solve the problems

The present inventors conducted a variety of investigations to solve said problems, and as a result, found that when niobium hydroxide or tantalum hydroxide containing 8 wt% or less fluorine (based on oxide), which is crystallized in neutral or basic conditions, is treated with 2 wt% or more acid (based on oxide)

at pH 6 or less, caking of the oxide produced from the hydroxide by drying or firing is prevented, and also the reduction of load in the drying and firing and omission of the grinding process are planned as part of the present invention.

In the present invention, as niobium hydroxide or tantalum hydroxide used for reforming, those synthesized by a well-known method may be used, but especially niobium hydroxide or tantalum hydroxide obtained by crystallization of an aqueous of niobium or tantalum fluoride or oxalate in a basic region at pH of 8 or higher, is effective.

Furthermore, in the acid treatment, the desirable fluorine content in niobium hydroxide or tantalum hydroxide is 8 wt% or less, based on niobium or tantalum hydroxide. If the fluorine content exceeds this limit it causes dissolution loss of hydroxide by the acid treatment and thus it is not economical.

The acid treatment in the present invention means acid washing or repulp treatment of making a hydroxide into a slurry by treating in an aqueous acid solution and stirring. Acids that can be used are inorganic acids such as hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, and the like, and organic acids such as acetic acid, citric acid, formic acid, and the like; the suitable amount of acids is 2 wt% or more, preferably 5-50 wt% of the niobium or tantalum oxide weight; in general, at the hydroxide filtration-separation stage, it is washed with an aqueous solution of 5-20 wt% acid or it is repulp treated for a few minutes, subjected to solid-liquid separation, e.g., filtration, centrifugation, decantation, etc., to separate it from the repulp medium, washed with water, and the adhered water

is dried, e.g., at 110-160°C to obtain a dried product without caking. It is further fired at 600-900°C to obtain an oxide having improved powder property without caking.

If the amount of acid used for acid washing or repulp treatment is less than 2 wt%, the pH does not go below 6 or less [sic] due to residual alkali.

The mechanism for prevention of caking by the acid treatment in the present invention has not been elucidated yet, but it is believed to be probably a phenomenon that takes place by the pH, hydrogen ion concentration, of the liquid, and it may be based on a change in the porosity by substition of OH $^-$  and F $^-$  or H $_2$ O and NH $_4$ F, accompanied by an increase in BET specific surface area of the dried product.

Thus, the present invention can accomplish the desired objective by an extremely simple procedure, but the powder property of niobium hydroxide or tantalum hydroxide prepared by the present invention varies greatly with the fluorine content of niobium hydroxide or tantalum hydroxide and the preparation process, and the powder property of the fired oxide also varies with the firing temperature, amount, method, etc.

As a reference, a powder prepared by drying niobium hydroxide containing 0.2 wt% or less fluorine (based on oxide) at 150°C according to the ordinary method, grinding and passing through a 100-mesh sieve, had BET specific surface area 15-20 m²/g and bulk density (JIS K 5101) 0.3-0.6 g/cc as a reference of BET specific surface area and JIS K 5101 weight ratio and contained a large amount of caked coarse grains. On the other hand, a powder prepared from the same hydroxide as by the present invention above, for instance, by treating with 2-100 wt% hydrochloric acid (based on the oxide), drying at 150°C, crushing

by finger pressure and sieving, had BET specific surface area  $70-120 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  and bulk density 0.2-0.4 g/cc and there was no caking at all. Thus, dried niobium hydroxide or tantalum hydroxide having BET specific surface area 70  $\mathrm{m}^2/\mathrm{g}$  or more and excellent powder property is obtained by the present invention. As references, when both of the above-mentioned both dried products of niobium hydroxide were fired at 800°C according to the ordinary method for preparation, ground and screened by a 30-mesh sieve, the oxide powder from the former had, as powder property, bulk density  $0.5-0.8~\mathrm{g/cc^3}$  and average particle size (natural sedimentation measuring method,  $D_{50})\ 3\text{--}15~\mu\text{m}$  and contained a large amount of caked coarse grains. On the other hand, if it is prepared by the process of the present invention, the fired oxide passes through the sieve without [prior] grinding, and an oxide having excellent powder property such as bulk density 0.2-0.5 g/cc³ and average particle size 0.5-3  $\mu m$  is obtained without caking.

Even when a hydroxide containing 1-8 wt% fluorine (based on oxide) is treated according to the process of the present invention, the same effect is obtained, and the resulting hydroxide is fired to obtain an oxide in which particle growth is notably less than in that prepared by skipping the treatment.

Next, the present invention is explained in detail by application examples.

The powder properties of a dried product passed through a 100-mesh sieve after grinding and a fired oxide after grinding were measured. The bulk density was measured by the JIS K 5101 method, and the average particle size (natural sedimentation method) was measured using a Shimadzu particle size distribution measurement apparatus, model SA-CP2.

## Application Example 1

After pouring ion-exchanged water and 25 wt% ammonia water into a 500-L Teflon reaction vessel, a niobium fluoride solution (10 wt% based on oxide) was added, and niobium hydroxide was crystallized at pH 9 to prepare 400 kg of a niobium hydroxide slurry with a slurry concentration of 8 wt% (based oxide). Hereinafter, this niobium hydroxide slurry is used.

In a Nutsche filter, 400 g (32 g as oxide) of the niobium hydroxide slurry were filtered and washed with 1 L of ion-exchanged water. The fluorine content of the filtrate was 0.25 wt% (based on oxide). It was then washed successively with 100 g of 8 wt% (25 wt% with respect to oxide) hydrochloric acid and 500 mL of ion-exchanged water. It was then dried at 150°C for 20 h and its powder property was measured, but there was no caked powder at all. Further, this dried powder was fired at 800°C to obtain niobium pentaoxide and subjected to measurement of the powder property; there was no caked powder at all. Results are shown in Table I. The SEM photograph is shown in Figure 1.

## Application Example 2

In a Nutsche filter, 400 g (32 g as oxide) of the slurry, prepared in Application Example 1, were filtered and washed with 1 L of ion-exchanged water. The fluorine content of the filtrate was 0.25 wt% (based on oxide). The filtrate was transferred to a 1-L Teflon container, and redispersed after adding 500 mL of ion-exchanged water; 3.7 g of 35 wt% hydrochloric acid (4 wt% with respect to the oxide weight) were added, and the pH of the slurry was adjusted to 5 for adjustment of powder property; it

was then filtered and washed with 500 mL of ion-exchanged water. There was no caked powder in either the dried powder or fired oxide, just like in Application Example 1; thus, the powder property has been adjusted. Results are shown in Table I.

## Application Examples 3, 4, 5

Niobium hydroxide was prepared in the same manner as in Application Example 1, using 8 wt% (25 wt% with respect to oxide weight) nitric acid, sulfuric acid as mineral acids, or acetic acid as organic acid. The dried powder and fired oxide had excellent powder property, as in Application Example 1, and there was no caked powder at all. Results are shown in Table I.

## Application Example 6

In a small size filter press, 100 kg (8 kg as oxide) of the slurry prepared in Application Example 1 were filtered and washed with 120 L of ion-exchanged water. It contains 4.8 wt% (oxide conversion) fluorine. It was then washed successively with 20 kg of 8 wt% (20 wt% with respect to oxide conversion) hydrochloric acid and 120 L of ion-exchanged water. The dried powder and fired oxide had excellent powder property, as in Application Example 1, and there was no caked powder at all. Results are shown in Table I.

## Comparative Example 1

In a Nutsche filter, 400 g (32 g as oxide) of the slurry prepared in Application Example 1 were filtered and washed with 1.5 L of ion-exchanged water. It was then dried at 150°C for 20 h and its powder property was measured. There was a large amount of caked coarse grains in the dried powder. The dried powder was then fired at 800°C and its powder property was measured, but there was a large amount of caked coarse grains. Results are shown in Table I. The SEM photograph is shown in Figure 2.

## Comparative Example 2

In a small filter press, 100 kg (8 kg as oxide) of the slurry prepared in Application Example 1 were filtered and washed with 240 L of ion-exchanged water. It was then dried at 150°C for 20 h and its powder property was measured. Caked coarse grains were seen in the dried powder. The dried powder was then fired at 800°C and its powder property was measured; caked coarse grains were seen in the fired oxide and particles were grown as compared with Application Example 6. Results are shown in Table I.

## Application Examples 7, 8, 9, 10

After pouring ion-exchanged water and 25 wt% ammonia water into a 5-L Teflon reaction vessel, a tantalum fluoride solution (10 wt% based on oxide) was added and tantalum hydroxide was crystallized at a pH above the neutral region to prepare 4 kg of a tantalum hydroxide slurry with a slurry concentration of 8 wt% (based on oxide).

Then, 400 g (32 g as oxide) of the tantalum hydroxide slurry were filtered by a Nutsche filter and washed with 1 L of ion-exchanged water. The fluorine content of the filtrate was 0.3 wt% (based on oxide). It was then washed successively with 8 wt% (25 wt% with respect to oxide) hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, sulfuric acid, or acetic acid as an organic acid and 500 mL of ion-exchanged water. It was then dried at 150°C for 20 h and its powder property was measured, but there was no caked powder at all. This dried powder was then fired at 800°C to obtain tantalum pentaoxide and its powder property was measured, but there was no caked powder at all. Results are shown in Table II.

## Comparative Example 3

In a Nutsche filter, 400 g (32 g as oxide) of the above-mentioned tantalum hydroxide slurry were filtered and washed with 1.5 L of ion-exchanged water. It was then dried at 150°C for 20 h and its powder property was measured. There was a large amount of caked coarse grains in the dried powder. The dried powder was then fired at 800°C and its powder property was measured, but there was a large amount of caked coarse grains. Results are shown in Table II.

Table I

		3	(	9 (	<b>9 9</b>	6)	(y)		
		吃饭	乾燥水酸化土土丁			「現成五般化・オブ			
		BET (d/g)	カ#比近 (g/cc)	四十二年 17 年	(D <sub>50</sub> μm)	カチ比丘 (8/60)	(西北北) 在 . 無	(5)	
1	ZIEH I	102 -	0.24	(8)	0.50	0.27	(8)m		
1	XXXII 2	75	0.33	•	0.95	0.35	•		
}	<b>実施</b> 的3	87	0.25	-	0.69	0.29	-		
M	类选択4	75	0.27	•	1.00	0.35	-		
	<b>末班</b> 明5	80	0.30	•	0.90	0.32	•		
- (	<b>支链</b> 例 6	82	0.29	•	1.01	0.29	•		
0	H-MARI I	17	0.37	9)4	6.1	0.51	9)4		
6	出级#12	<b>జ</b>	0.40	•	3.2	0.42	<u> </u>		

Key: 1 Application Example

- 2 Comparative Example
- 3 Dried niobium hydroxide
- 4 Bulk density
- 5 Caking
- 6 Fired niobium pentaoxide
- 7 Average particle size
- 8 No caking
- 9 Caking

Table II									
		3	<i>(y)</i>	G			(4)		
		te to	روم ويمايينه	٧ /	数成功				
		BET (d∕g)	# # 比Ⅲ (8/℃)	16. 25 17 . 25	平に435名 (い + 4m)	カサ/比哲 (g/cc)	B.精烈雄 介 . 無	(5)	
(	英胜时7	95	0.38	(F) M3	0.81	0.03	(8)m		
M	支持州8	85	0.40	*	0.92	0.71	-		
9	実施研9	77	0.45	•	1.09	0.75	•		
(	<b>支持折10</b>	80	0.41	^'	1.01	0.71	^ ′		
(2)	出92013	20	0.61	(9)a	7.5	1.28	9) <del>11</del>		

Key: 1 Application Example

- 2 Comparative Example
- 3 Dried tantalum hydroxide
- 4 Bulk density
- 5 Caking
- 6 Fired tantalum pentaoxide
- 7 Average particle size
- 8 No caking
- 9 Caking

### Effect of the invention

A dried powder having a BET specific surface area of 70 m<sup>2</sup>/g or more and improved powder property is obtained by drying niobium hydroxide or tantalum hydroxide, prepared by the present invention, according to an ordinary method without conducting any specific treatment or utilizing any specific drying method. Furthermore, the dried powder is fired according to an ordinary method to obtain an oxide having improved powder property, and which does not require a grinding process.

## Brief description of the figures

Figure 1 and Figure 2 are SEM photographs showing the particle structure of dried niobium pentaoxide and fired niobium pentaoxide, respectively, in Application Example 1 and Comparative Example 1, respectively.



Figure 1



Figure 2